

CLAIMS:

1. A mobile communication terminal for use in a wireless communication network, the mobile communication terminal
5 comprising:

a memory containing a first switch-off code of the mobile communication terminal,

10 a processor unit controlling the status of the mobile terminal,

said mobile terminal being adapted for receiving a remote switch-off signal containing a second switch-off code via the communication network, and
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the processor unit being adapted for switching off the terminal when the first switch-off code stored in the memory and the second switch-off code contained
20 in the switch-off signal are identical.

2. A mobile communication terminal according to claim 1, wherein the terminal is provided with a control module comprising a remote switch-off module that receives the
25 remote switch-off signal in the form of a remote message signal via the communication network from an owner of the mobile communication terminal.

3. A mobile communication terminal according to claim 1, wherein the remote switch-off signal comprises:
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a parameter for identifying it as a remote switch-off signal, and

35 the second switch-off code.

4. A mobile communication terminal according to claim 3,
wherein the remote switch-off signal further comprises a
response telephone number.
- 5 5. A mobile communication terminal according to claim 3,
wherein the remote switch-off signal further comprises a
response email address.
6. A mobile communication terminal according to claim 3,
10 wherein the parameter for identifying the remote switch-
off signal comprises a word, such as "PHONEOFF".
7. A mobile communication terminal according to claim 3,
wherein the control module comprises a remote message
15 signal verification module for determining by means of
the parameter for identifying the remote switch-off
signal if a remote message signal is a switch-off signal
or a normal message signal.
- 20 8. A mobile communication terminal according to claim 7,
wherein the remote message signal verification module
compares the first switch-off code stored in the memory
and the second switch-off code contained in the switch-
off signal.
- 25 9. A mobile communication terminal according to claim 8,
wherein the control module comprises a response address
module for detecting a response address, such as a
response telephone number or a response email address, in
30 the switch-off signal.
10. A mobile communication terminal according to claim 8,
wherein the remote message signal verification module
deletes the first switch-off code stored in the memory of
35 the terminal after a predetermined number of consecutive
remote switch-off signals having a second switch-off code
different from the first switch-off code.

11. A mobile communication terminal according to claim 2, wherein the control module comprises a terminal switch-off module, which runs a switch-off process.

5 12. A mobile communication terminal according to claim 2, wherein the response address module provides a switch-off confirmation message signal to the owner before the terminal switches completely off or a non-switch-off confirmation message signal to the owner if an error
10 occurs.

13. A mobile communication terminal according to claim 12, wherein the switch-off confirmation message signal comprises a terminal EOTD location.

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14. A mobile communication terminal according to claim 1, further comprising a menu structure for changing the switch-off code stored in the memory of the terminal.

20 15. A mobile communication terminal according to claim 1, further comprising a display module for displaying a terminal switch-off message.

16. A mobile communication terminal according to claim 1,
25 wherein the remote switch-off signal is a message in Short Messaging System (SMS) format.

17. A mobile communication terminal according to claim 1, further comprising a SIM card containing a subscriber
30 identity.

18. A mobile communication terminal according to claim 17, wherein the subscriber identity contained in the SIM card is the same subscriber identity contained in at
35 least another SIM card.

19. A mobile communication terminal according to claim 18, wherein the processor switches off the terminal only

if the remote switch-off signal is triggered by a second mobile communication terminal having a SIM card with the same subscriber identity.

5 20. A mobile communication terminal according to claim 1, wherein the terminal is a mobile telephone.

21. A method for remotely switching off a first mobile communication terminal having a given subscriber identity
10 associated therewith, comprising the steps of:

(A) sending a remote switch-off signal via a wireless communication network to the first mobile communication terminal,

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(B) receiving the remote switch-off signal on the first mobile communication terminal,

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(C) verifying the remote switch-off signal on the first mobile communication terminal, and

(D) if the verification in step (C) is positive then switching off the first mobile communication terminal.

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22. A method according to claim 21, further comprising a step (E) before step (A) comprising switching off a second mobile communication terminal having associated therewith the same subscriber identity as the first
30 mobile communication terminal, and a step (F) after step (D) comprising switching on the second mobile communication terminal, and wherein in step (A) the remote switch-off signal is sent from a third mobile communication terminal having associated therewith a
35 subscriber identity different from that of the first and the second mobile communication terminals.

23. A method according to claim 21, further comprising a step (G) before step (A) comprising switching off a second mobile communication terminal having associated therewith the same subscriber identity as the first mobile communication terminal, and a step (H) after step (D) comprising switching on the second mobile communication terminal, and wherein in step (A) the remote switch-off signal is sent from a computer through an internet gateway.

24. A method according to claim 21, wherein the remote switch-off signal comprises:

a parameter for identifying it as a remote switch-off signal, and

a second switch-off code.

25. A method according to claim 24, wherein step (C) comprises the sub-steps of:

(C.1) recognizing said parameter for identifying a remote switch-off signal, and

(C.2) comparing a first switch-off code stored in a memory of the first mobile communication terminal and the second switch-off code contained in the remote switch-off signal.

26. A method according to claim 21, further comprising, if the verification in step (C) is positive, a step (I; I.1) between steps (C) and (D) comprising sending a switch-off confirmation message signal before the terminal switches completely off.

27. A method according to claim 21, further comprising, if the verification in step (C) is negative, a step (J;

J.1) between steps (C) and (D) comprising sending a non-switch-off confirmation message signal.

28. A method according to claim 21, wherein the remote
5 switch-off signal comprises a response telephone number
and wherein step (C) further comprises a sub-step (C.3 ;
C.4) comprising detecting the response telephone number.

29. A method according to claim 21, wherein the remote
10 switch-off signal comprises a response email address and
wherein step (C) further comprises a sub-step (C.3; C.4)
comprising detecting the response email address.

30. A method for remotely switching off a first mobile
15 communication terminal with a given subscriber identity
associated therewith, comprising the steps of:

calling a predetermined telephone number of a
wireless communication network provider from a second
20 mobile communication terminal having associated if
the network provider verifies that the first mobile
communication terminal is switched on, therewith the
same subscriber identity that said first mobile
communication terminal,

25 cause said network provider to verify if the first
mobile communication terminal is switched on,

causing said network provider to send a remote
30 switch-off signal to the first mobile communication
terminal, and

switching off the first mobile communication terminal
upon receipt of the remote switch-off signal.

35 31. A method according to claim 30, further comprising a
step between the steps of calling - predetermined
telephone number and causing said network provider to

verify if the first mobile communication terminal is switched on, comprising switching off the second mobile communication terminal during a period of time.

5 32. A method according to claim 30, further comprising a step between steps of calling - predetermined telephone number and causing said network provider to verify if the first mobile communication terminal is switched on, of
10 storing a unique code associated to the second mobile communication terminal and wherein the step of causing said network provider to verify if the first mobile communication terminal is switched on comprises the sub-steps of:

15 updating the first mobile communication terminal in the wireless communication terminal,

obtaining the subscriber identity and a unique code of the first mobile communication terminal, and

20 recognizing that the first mobile communication terminal has the same subscriber identity but different unique code that the second mobile communication terminal.

25 33. A method according to claim 30, wherein the unique code is the IMEI.